

No. 45
Ind.

WISCONSIN ADMINISTRATIVE CODE

Ind 51.01 Mill construction. (1) In a building of mill construction the structural frame shall consist of steel or iron which shall be fire-protected, of reinforced concrete, of masonry, or of heavy timbers, except that in buildings not exceeding one story in height the structural steel or iron may have the fire-protection omitted.

(2) Exterior and court walls shall be 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05, except that non-load bearing exterior walls which face streets, alleys, outer or inner courts 20 feet or more in width may be constructed of incombustible panels of not less than 1-hour fire-resistive construction.

(a) Non-load bearing exterior walls which face streets, alleys, outer or inner courts 30 feet or more in width may be constructed of incombustible panels with no fire-resistive rating.

(3) All wood columns in the structural frame shall be directly superimposed, one above the other, and shall be provided with steel or cast iron caps, unless the floor or roof beams and girders are carried on blocks securely fastened to the columns and with the loads transmitted to the columns by metal ring or similar type connectors, or by caps of otherwise suitable material. They shall not rest on wood bolsters or floor timbers. Wood bolsters may be used to support roof timbers. No wood column shall be less than 8 inches nominal in its least dimension, and no beam, girder or joist shall be less than 6 inches nominal in its least dimension nor less than 45 square inches in cross-sectional area. In no case shall masonry or reinforced concrete be supported on wood construction except tile or concrete floor finishes not more than 3 inches in thickness.

(4) For structural steel or iron members, the fire-protection shall be not less than 3-hour fire-resistive protection for columns and not less than 2-hour fire-resistive protection for beams, girders and floor systems, as specified in section Ind 51.04.

(5) All reinforcement in concrete columns shall be fire-protected with not less than 3-hour fire-resistive protection, and all joists, beams, girders, slabs and steel floors with not less than 2-hour fire-resistive protection outside of all steel reinforcing as specified in section Ind 51.04.

(6) Wood floor construction shall be of tongued and grooved, or splined lumber not less than 3 inches nominal thickness, with a top layer of flooring of one inch nominal thickness laid thereon, or of solid lumber placed on edge and securely spiked together to make a floor not less than 4 inches nominal thickness.

(7) Roof construction shall be as specified for floors, except that the minimum nominal thickness shall be 2 inches. Roof coverings shall be a fire-retardent roofing as specified in section Ind 51.07, and shall be required over all combustible roof construction.

(8) Enclosures for elevator or dumb-waiter shafts, vent shafts, stair wells, waste paper chutes, and other similar vertical shafts

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shall be of 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05, with all interior openings therein protected by fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09. ✓

(9) Stair construction may be of wood in buildings not exceeding 3 stories in height. In buildings 4 or more stories in height all stairs and stair construction shall be as required for fire-resistive construction specified in section Ind 51.001. ✓

(10) Doors and windows may be of wood except as otherwise specified under occupancy requirements in this code.

History: 1-2-56; am. (2); (2)(a); Register, June, 1956, No. 6, eff. 7-1-56.

Ind 51.02 Ordinary construction. (1) A building is of ordinary construction if all enclosing walls are constructed of incombustible material, and the roof has a fire-retardent covering as specified in section Ind 51.07. ✓

(2) The structural framework shall be of steel, iron, reinforced concrete, masonry or wood. Fire-protection of steel, iron or wood structural members may be omitted, except that all members carrying masonry in buildings more than one story in height shall be fire-protected with/not less than one-hour fire-protection, as specified in section Ind 51.04. ✓

(3) Floors, roof and partitions may be of wood, but no joist, rafter or stud shall be less than 2 inches in nominal thickness. In all buildings the first story floor construction above a basement, if of metal or wood, shall be protected on the under side by one-hour fire-resistive construction, and in buildings of 4 stories or more in height the lower side of all metal or wood floor or roof construction shall be protected by a ceiling of one-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.06, unless otherwise provided under occupancy requirements.

(4) Stairs may be of steel, iron, reinforced concrete, masonry or wood, with enclosures as specified under occupancy requirements.

(5) Bays, oriels and similar projections from the walls shall be constructed of incombustible materials as specified in this order. Penthouses and other roof structures shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.06. ✓

Ind 51.03 Frame construction. (1) A building is of frame construction if the structural parts and enclosing walls are of wood, or of wood in combination with other materials. If such enclosing walls are veneered, encased or faced with stone, brick, tile, concrete, plaster or metal, the building is also termed a frame building.

Ind 51.04 Fire-resistive standards; structural members. (1) MINIMUM THICKNESS IN INCHES FOR VARIOUS FIRE-RESISTING MATERIALS

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(3) The industrial commission will accept roof coverings for different fire-resistance values as established by, and if installed according to, the requirements of the Underwriters' Laboratories.

Note: The Underwriters' Laboratories "List of Inspected Materials" is obtainable from the Fire Insurance Rating Bureaus and Fire Insurance Agencies.

(4) The industrial commission will approve, subject to the provisions of this section, any roof covering which has developed the required fire-resistance in tests as specified in the "Standard Specifications of Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials" (A.S.T.M. Designation C19-33) when conducted by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.

Ind 51.08 Occupancy separations. (1) When a building is used for more than one occupancy purpose, each part of the building comprising a distinct occupancy division shall be separated from any other occupancy division as provided for under the occupancy requirements of this code.

(2) Occupancy separations shall be classed as "Absolute", "Special" and "Ordinary" and shall apply to both horizontal and vertical separations.

(a) An absolute occupancy separation shall have no openings therein and shall be of not less than 4-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in sections Ind 51.05 and Ind 51.06.

(b) A special occupancy separation shall be of not less than 3-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in sections Ind 51.05 and Ind 51.06. All openings in walls forming such separation shall be protected on each side thereof by self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09, and such doors shall be kept normally closed. The total width of all openings in any such separating wall in any one story shall not exceed 25% of the length of the wall in that story and no single opening shall have an area greater than 120 square feet.

1. All openings in floors forming this type of separation shall be protected by vertical enclosures extending above and below such openings. The walls of such vertical enclosures shall be of not less than 2-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in section Ind 51.05 and all openings therein shall be protected on one side thereof by self-closing one-hour fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09 and such doors shall be kept normally closed.

(c) An ordinary occupancy separation shall be of not less than one-hour fire-resistive construction as specified in sections Ind 51.05 and Ind 51.06. All openings in such separations shall be protected by self-closing fire-resistive doors as specified in section Ind 51.09 and such doors shall be kept normally closed.

Ind 51.09 Fire-resistive doors. (1) Fire-resistive doors have no time resistance rating established by governmental agencies. It will be the policy of the industrial commission to approve, subject to the provisions of this section, any door given a rating by the Underwriters' Laboratories in their "List of Fire Protection Equipment and Materials," listed as Class A, B, C, D and E having varying degrees of resistance, and suitable for various locations.

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(2) Class A doors, or equal, shall be used for all openings in 3 and 4 hour fire-resistive walls. Class B doors, or equal, shall be used in openings in walls enclosing vertical shafts whenever fire-resistive doors are required. Doors for elevator shafts shall be of Class B type or equal. Class C doors, or equal, shall be used in openings in corridor partitions in fire-resistive buildings, except that wood doors of solid flush type, 1¾ inches thick may be used in such buildings which are less than 85 feet in height. Class D and E doors, or better, shall be used in outside wall openings where required for fire escapes.

Note: The Underwriters' Laboratories "List of Inspected Materials" is obtainable from the Fire Insurance Rating Bureaus and Fire Insurance Companies.

Ind 51.10 Fire resistive windows. (1) Windows shall be of a design approved by the industrial commission for the intended use as provided under occupancy classifications. The term "window" in this order shall include the frame, sash and all other parts of a complete assembly. Approved wired glass ¼ inch in thickness shall be used for glazing.

(2) Windows shall be limited to sizes for which effective fire-resistance has been demonstrated by actual fire test, and which in no case exceed 84 square feet in area and 12 feet in greatest dimension. Such windows may be combined in multiple assemblies when separated by approved metal mullions, which shall be considered non-bearing.

(3) Individual glass lights shall not exceed 720 square inches in area, and 54 inches in vertical and 48 inches in horizontal dimension.

Note: It will be the policy of the industrial commission to approve, subject to the provisions of this order, any window bearing the inspection manifest of the Underwriters' Laboratories for the situation of installation.

Ind 51.11 Glass block. (1) **USE.** Approved glass block may be used in non-load bearing panels in walls where ordinary glass will be permitted, unless specifically prohibited by occupancy requirements of this code.

(2) **INSTALLATION.** Glass block panels shall not exceed 144 square feet in unsupported area, with a maximum height of 20 feet and a maximum width of 20 feet. The horizontal and vertical mortar joints between each block shall be composed of one part of Portland cement, one part of lime and 4 parts of sand, or its equivalent.

(a) All panels over 6 feet in width shall be supported on each side by chases, not less than 1½ inches in depth, of metal or other incombustible material.

(b) Approved continuous metal bond ties shall be provided in each horizontal mortar joint for block of nominal 12 x 12 inch size and in at least every third joint for block of smaller dimension.

(c) Provision shall be made in all panels for expansion, using approved expansion material not less than ½ inch thick for heads and lintels and not less than ¼ inch thick for jambs.

Ind 51.12 Height of building. The height of a building is measured at the center line of its principal front, from the sidewalk grade (or, if setting back from the sidewalk, from the grade of the ground adjoining the building) to the highest part of the roof, if a flat roof, or to a point 2/3 of the height of the roof, if a gabled or hipped roof. If the grade of the lot or adjoining sidewalk in the rear or alongside

of the building falls below the grade at the front, the height shall be measured at the center of the lowest side.

Ind 51.13 Basement; first floor; number of stories. A basement is a story whose floorline is below grade at any entrance or exit and whose ceiling is not more than 5 feet above grade at any such entrance or exit. The first floor is the floor next above the basement, or the lowest floor if there is no basement. The number of stories of a building includes all stories except the basement.

Ind 51.14 Street; alley; court. (1) A street is any public thoroughfare 30 feet or more in width.

(2) An alley is any public thoroughfare less than 30 feet, but not less than 10 feet, in width.

(3) A court is an open, unoccupied space other than a street or alley and bounded on one or more sides by the walls of a building.

Ind 51.15 Standard exit. (1) Every door which serves as a required exit from a public passageway, stairway or building shall be a standard exit door unless exempted by the occupancy requirements of this code.

Note: For required exits see sections Ind 54.06, 55.10, 56.08, 57.09.

(2) Every standard exit door shall swing outward or toward the natural means of egress (except as below). It shall be level with the floor, and shall be so hung that, when open, it will not block any part of the required width of any other doorway, passageway, stairway or fire escape. No revolving door, and no sliding door except where it opens onto a stairway enclosure or serves as a horizontal exit, shall be considered as a standard exit door.

(3) A standard exit door shall have such fastenings or hardware that it can be opened from the inside without using a key, by pushing against a single bar or plate, or turning a single knob or handle; it shall not be locked, barred, or bolted at any time while the building is occupied.

(4) A standard exit doorway shall not be less than 6 feet 4 inches high by 3 feet 4 inches wide, except where especially provided under occupancy classifications and in section Ind 51.20. Where double doors are provided with or without mullions, the width of each single door may be reduced to 2 feet 6 inches.

(5) In every building which is used at night, a red exit light shall be placed over every emergency exit door and also over every exit door where other doors or openings may cause confusion.

(6) Doors, windows or other openings which are not exits but which give the appearance of exits shall be effectively guarded.

Ind 51.16 Stairways. (1) **DEFINITION.** By a stairway is meant one or more flights of steps and the necessary platforms connecting them to form a continuous passage from one level to another within a building or structure.

(2) **WIDTH.** Every required exit stairway, whether enclosed or not, shall be not less than 3 feet 8 inches wide of which not more than 4 inches on each side may be occupied by a handrail. Every platform shall be at least as wide as the stairway, measuring at right angles to the direction of travel. Every straight run platform shall measure

at least 3 feet in the direction of travel. Wherever a door opens onto a stairway, a platform shall be provided extending at least the full width of the door in the direction of travel. *Exception:*

(a) In apartment buildings not more than 2 stories in height and having not more than 2 apartments on a floor and in rooming houses, hospitals, hotels and similar buildings not more than 2 stories in height and having not more than 6 living or sleeping rooms on a floor, such stairways shall not be less than 3 feet wide.

(b) If other stairways are provided in addition to those required by this code, such additional stairways need not conform to the width requirements of this code.

(3) **HANDRAILS.** All stairways and steps of more than 3 risers shall have at least one handrail. Stairways and steps 5 feet or more in width, or open on both sides, shall have a handrail on each side. Where only one handrail is required it shall be placed on the left hand side as one mounts the stairs, and on the open side, if any.

(a) Stairways which are more than 8 feet wide shall be divided by center rails into widths not more than 8 feet nor less than 3 feet 8 inches. Rails shall be not less than 2 feet 6 inches vertically above the nose of treads or 3 feet 6 inches above the platform. Railings on open sides of stairways and platforms shall be provided with an intermediate member at mid-height, or with vertical members having a maximum spacing of 11 inches; or its equivalent in safety.

(b) Stairways on the outside of buildings and an integral part thereof, having more than 3 risers shall have a handrail at each side, and if the stairway is more than 50 feet wide, one or more intermediate handrails shall be provided.

(4) **RISERS AND TREADS.** All stairways and steps required as exits by this code shall have a uniform rise of not more than 7¾ inches and a uniform tread of not less than 9½ inches, measuring from tread to tread, and from riser to riser. No winders shall be used. There shall not be more than 18, nor less than 3 risers between platforms or between floor and platform and not more than 22 risers from floor to floor with no platform.

(a) Stairways and steps not required as exits by this code shall have a uniform rise of not more than 8 inches and a uniform tread of not less than 9 inches. If winders are used, the tread shall be at least 7 inches wide at a point one foot from the narrow end.

(b) For stairways to elevated walks, platforms and runways in places of employment see section Ind 1.17 of the general orders on safety issued by the industrial commission.

(c) The edges of all treads and the edges of all stairway landings shall be finished with a non-slippery surface not less than 3 inches in width.

(3), (2)(a), (2)(4), 3 Wis (2) 544
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Ind 51.17 Smokeproof stair tower. (1) A smokeproof stair tower shall be an enclosed stairway which is entirely cut off from the building and which is reached by means of open balconies or platforms. The stairways, landings, platforms and balconies shall be of incombustible material throughout. The enclosing walls shall be of not